

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01

/102 W

----- 109070

R 121053Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0435

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, QA

SUBJ: QATAR'S APRIL CRUDE PRODUCTION SHOWS RISE

REF: A) STATE 105429; B) DOHA 0504; C) DOHA 0425

1. CRUDE PRODUCTIVE FIGURES REPORTED BY OPERATING COMPANIES
FOR MONTH OF APRIL SHOW SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OVER MARCH FIGURES

(REF C). QATAR PETROLEUM COMPANY (QPC) PRODUCT GN AVERAGED
195,000 BPD COMPARED TO MARCH FIGURE OF 151,000 BPD. SHELL/
QATAR'S OUTPUT OF MARINE CRUDE REACHED 316,000 BPD COMPARED
TO 278,000 BPD FOR MARCH. TOTAL PRODUCTION FOR APRIL WAS 511,000
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BPD, ONLY 9,000 BPD BELOW THE GOVERNMENT'S PRODUCTION CEILING

OF 520,000 BPD. TOTAL MARCH PRODUCTION WAS 429,000 BPD.

2. BOTH COMPANY AND GOQ OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE ANY CONCESSIONS ON PRICE. GOQ DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS NOTED THAT INCREASED PRODUCTION WAS DUE TO IMPROVING MARKET SITUATION AND SAID THAT GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NO ACTION TO CUT SULFUR PREMC M ON DUKHAN CRUDE PRODUCED BY QPC.

3. MAY 5 EDITION OF PIW REPORTED THAT TALKS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOON REGARDING PRICE ADJUSTMENTS FOR ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE CRUDE TO REFLECT COMPETITIVE MARKET CONDITIONS. ONE QPC OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY THAT WHILE COMPANIES HAD ATTEMPTED TO GET PRICE REDUCTION IN PAST, HE UNAWARE OF ANY NEW INITIATIVES. HE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT GOQ UNLIKELY TO MAKE CONCESSION ON PRICE IN VIEW OF INCREASED APRIL PRODUCTION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT GOQ WOULD CUT PRICE NOW AFTER HOLDING FIRM DURING LEAN MONTHS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT REDUCTION PRIOR TO 100 PERCENT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE PART OF GOQ STRATEGY TO GET SPEEDY SETTLEMENT WITH COMPANIES. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED IN DOHA 0539 AND PREVIOUS, QATARIS HAVE NOT APPEARED TO BE IN HURRY TO IMPLEMENT TAKEOVER DECREE.
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Message Attributes

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